19. A method of electrically isolating a portion of an atria, the atria including atrial walls having surfaces, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a compression force to the surface of at least two atrial walls such that the at least two atrial walls are in contact with one another; and

ablating the at least two atrial walls.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of applying a compression force to the surface of at least two atrial walls such that the at least two atrial walls are in contact with one another comprises applying a compression force to the surface of at least two atrial appendage walls such that the at least two atrial appendage walls are in contact with one another.

21. A method as claimed in claim 20, further comprising the step of:

inverting the atrial appendage prior to applying the compression force.

22. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the step of applying a compression force to the surface of at least two atrial appendage walls such that the at least two atrial appendage walls are in contact with one another comprises positioning a lasso around the atrial appendage and tightening the lasso.

23. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of ablating the at least two atrial walls comprises heating the at least two atrial walls to a temperature sufficient to ablate the at least two atrial walls.

24. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of ablating the at least two atrial walls comprises applying electrical energy to the at least two atrial walls.

25. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of ablating the at least two atrial walls comprises applying radio frequency energy to the at least two atrial walls.

26. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of ablating the at least two atrial walls comprises heating the at least two atrial walls to a temperature sufficient to fuse the at least two atrial walls.

27. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of applying a compression force to the surface of at least two atrial walls such that the at least two atrial walls are in contact with one another comprises applying a compression force to the surface of at least two left atrial walls such that the at least two left atrial walls are in contact with one another.

28. A method of electrically isolating a portion of an atria, the atria including atrial walls having surfaces, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two atrial walls that substantially oppose one another; and

heating the at least two atrial walls with the electrically conductive material.

29. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two atrial walls that substantially oppose one another comprises positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two atrial appendage walls that substantially oppose one another.

30. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising the step of:

inverting the atrial appendage prior to positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two atrial appendage walls that substantially oppose one another.

31. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the step of positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two atrial walls that substantially oppose one another comprises positioning an electrically conductive lasso around the atrial appendage.

32. A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of:

forcing the at least two atrial walls into contact with one another prior to heating the at least two atrial walls with the electrically conductive material.

33. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of heating the at least two atrial walls with the electrically conductive material comprises heating the at least two atrial walls to a temperature sufficient to ablate the at least two atrial walls.

34. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of heating the at least two atrial walls with the electrically conductive material comprises applying electrical energy to the at least two atrial walls.

35. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of heating the at least two atrial walls with the electrically conductive material comprises applying radio frequency energy to the at least two atrial walls.

36. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of heating the at least two atrial walls with the electrically conductive material comprises heating the at least to atrial walls to a temperature sufficient to fuse the at least two atrial walls to one another.

37. A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the step of positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two atrial walls that substantially oppose one another comprises positioning electrically conductive material in contact with the surface of at least two left atrial walls that substantially oppose one another.

38. An apparatus for electrically isolating a portion of an atria, the atria including atrial walls having outer surfaces, the apparatus comprising:

a handle; and

an energy transmission structure, associated with the handle, including at least two energy transmission surfaces;

the energy transmission structure being configured and dimensioned such that it is movable between a first orientation where a distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces is sufficient to accommodate at least two atrial walls that substantially oppose one another and a second orientation where the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces will cause the at least two atrial walls to be in contact with one another.

39. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission structure comprises a releasable lasso.

40. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission surfaces comprise ablation surfaces.

41. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission surfaces comprise electrically conductive material.

42. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, further comprising:

a connector for connecting the energy transmission surfaces to an energy source.

43. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission structure is configured and dimensioned such that the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces is sufficient to accommodate at least two atrial appendage walls that substantially oppose one another when the energy transmission structure is in the first orientation and the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces will cause the at least two atrial appendage walls to be in contact with one another when the energy transmission structure is in the second orientation.

44. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the at least two energy transmission surfaces are connected to one another, thereby defining a continuous energy transmission surface.

45. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the energy transmission structure is configured and dimensioned such that the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces is sufficient to accommodate at least two left atrial walls that substantially oppose one another when the energy transmission structure is in the first orientation and the distance between the at least two energy transmission surfaces will cause the at least two left atrial walls to be in contact with one another when the energy transmission structure is in the second orientation.